Alonsa Conservation District

Management Plan

Manitoba
Rural Development
Conservation
Districts Authority

90-02365/

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October, 1988

Hon. Minister of
Natural Resources
Legislative Bldg.
Winnipeg

Dear Honourable Minister:

It is my pleasure to present the Alonsa Conservation District Management Plan for your approval.

Our District Board, L.G.D. of Alonsa and the rest of the community look forward to working with your Department and others in the implementation of the plan.

Sincerely

Don Fletcher
Chairperson,
Alonsa Conservation District

Minister of
Rural Development

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

May 9, 1989

Mr. D. Fletcher
Chairperson, Alonsa
Conservation District
Box 33
Alonsa, Manitoba
R0H 0A0

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

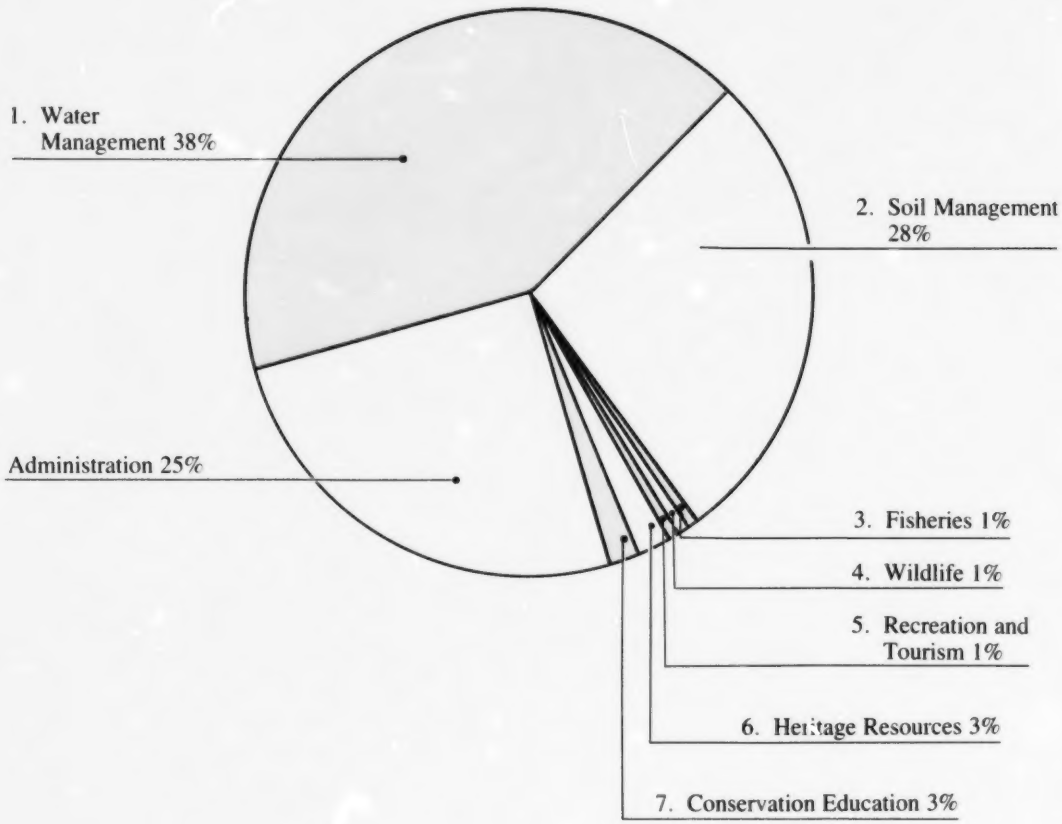
I have reviewed your Board's resource management plan with great interest. I am impressed with the Board's local leadership role and significant accomplishments in a few short years. I am convinced that your management plan will help forge a strong continued partnership with the Province of Manitoba. Conservation is everyone's business and you are clearly becoming more equipped for the challenges we all face as resource managers in the next century.

I approve your resource management plan and offer the assistance of my Department wherever possible. I look forward to meeting this summer to formally sign a letter of understanding and discuss your plans in detail.

Yours truly

Jack Penner
Minister

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 1989-1993



Program Priorities 1989-1993

1. Water Management

- **Largest Allocation to Water Projects:** Over the five-year period, about 38% of all expenditures, or a total of about $530,000, will go to water management projects. Many of these projects, however, will also serve other purposes as well, e.g. fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement.

- **Maintenance Highest Priority:** Most of the five-year water management budget, i.e. $266,700, will be spent on maintenance and repair of existing drains, especially in 1989 and 1990.

- **Master Water Management Plan:** To be prepared and approved by the Board, this Plan will establish the order and timing of new drainage construction, undertaken in the final three years, 1991-93.

- **Project Criteria and Construction Priorities:** Criteria will be established by the Board to help residents understand how our annual drainage maintenance and construction priorities are determined. Over $216,000 has been allocated for new priority projects, primarily during 1991-93.

- **Environmental Standards:** The Board will take an active role in establishing, enforcing, monitoring and evaluating design and technical standards for all District water projects.

- **Contract Management and Cost-Sharing:** The Board will take over responsibility for almost all project contracts, giving preference to competitive local contractors, and will negotiate equitable cost-sharing arrangements with landowners and the L.G.D. of Alonsa.

2. Soil Management

- **Changes in the Forage Seed Assistance Program:** The Board will continue this successful and popular conservation program, but will also initiate new program revisions. While still allocating over $355,000 to the program, the Board will reduce the program's scope over time and increase charges to program beneficiaries, thereby enabling more of the District's conservation budget to be spent on other priority programs.

- **Rotational Grazing and Other Soil Conservation Programs:** The Board has committed over $36,000 to encourage rotational grazing, facilitating and coordinating demonstration projects, and improving on-farm soil management practices.

3. Fisheries

- **New Conservation Initiatives:** The Board will initiate and support new initiatives to enhance fish habitat and support the sport and commercial fisheries.

4. Wildlife

- **New Conservation Initiatives:** The Board will take action to protect and improve waterfowl and wildlife habitat and to strictly control fires.

5. Recreation and Tourism

- **New Initiatives:** The Board will collaborate with other organizations to improve the District's recreational facilities and tourism services.

6. Heritage Resources

- **Improving the Alonsa Museum:** The Board has allocated over $13,000 to this cultural improvement project.
- **Preserving Manitoba House:** The Board has committed nearly $12,000 to assist others in acquiring, restoring and interpreting this important historic site.

7. Conservation Education

- **Portia Interpretive Centre:** The Board will work closely with Ducks Unlimited to establish a trail walk system and wetland interpretation program at the Portia Complex. Over $17,000 has been committed to this project.
- **New Initiatives:** The Board has committed almost $20,000 on new information and education initiatives, including conservation curriculum improvements and in-school programs, people-to-people exchanges, tours and field trips, and communications.

Expenditures: 1989-1993

The Board proposes to spend $1.38 million on conservation programs over the next five years. This is virtually a "no-growth" program budget. It is generally based on existing expenditures for current programs projected forward at a 5% annual growth rate. This takes account of anticipated inflationary increases in costs, plus modest expenditures for new programs and initiatives.

Revenues: 1989-1993

To implement its Management Plan, the Board must increase the District's funding base. The Board is committed to increasing District revenues from its three basic sources: the Provincial Government; local ratepayers and program users; and external organizations.

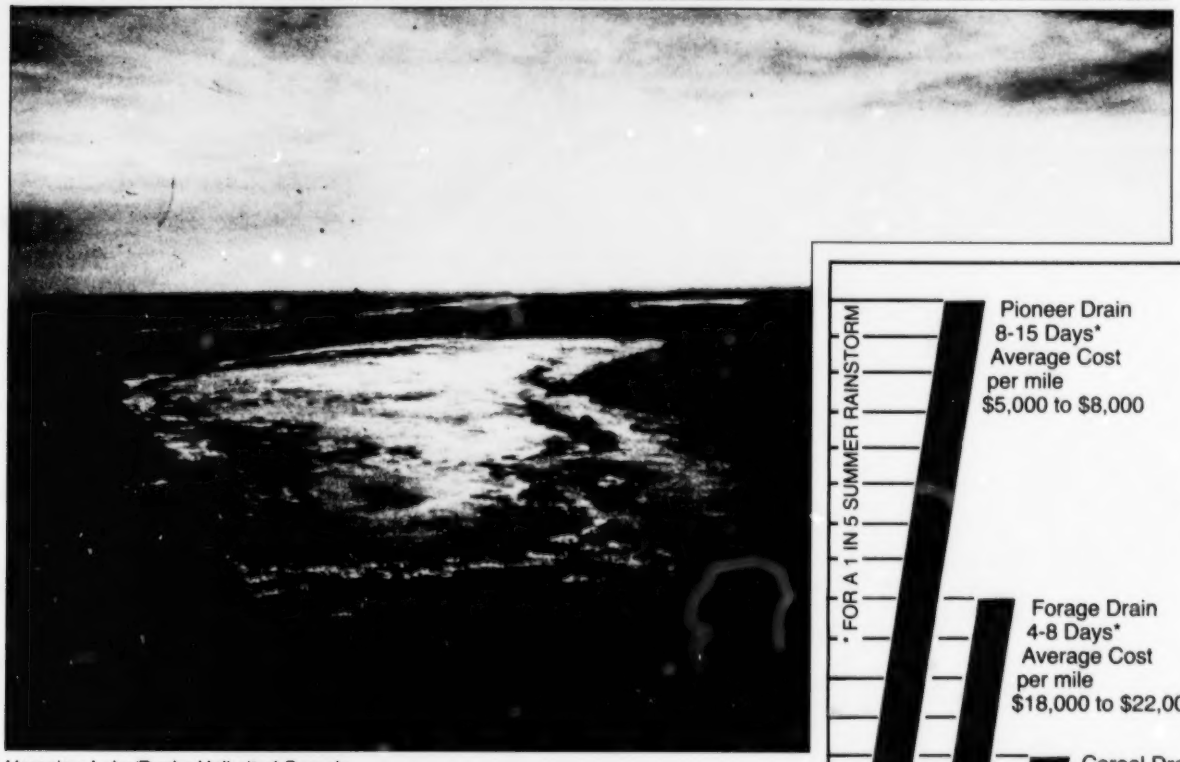
- **Increase in Provincial Grant:** The Board will request the Province to increase its support of the Alonsa District through continuation of existing cost-sharing, greater assistance to poorer districts, and development of a "matching dollar" incentive system for District fund-raising.
- **Increase in L.G.D. Special Grant:** The Board will request increases as needed in the L.G.D.'s annual special grant to the District, as well as special one-year project funding.
- **User Charges:** The Board will examine and institute new user charges for selected District services and programs as appropriate.
- **Local Resources:** The Board intends to implement other practical methods of raising funds, as well as a new volunteer program to expand District resources.
- **External Fund-raising:** The Board will undertake a major fund-raising program directed at securing more external funds for high-priority projects from such organizations as Ducks Unlimited, the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and conservation-minded corporations, foundations, and individuals.
- **"Alonsa Conservation Fund":** The Board intends to establish and administer a non-profit charitable institution as an endowment for future conservation activities. Such a Fund would be able to issue tax-deductible receipts for donations and/or bequests.

Five-Year Spending Estimates ($): All Programs (1989-1993)

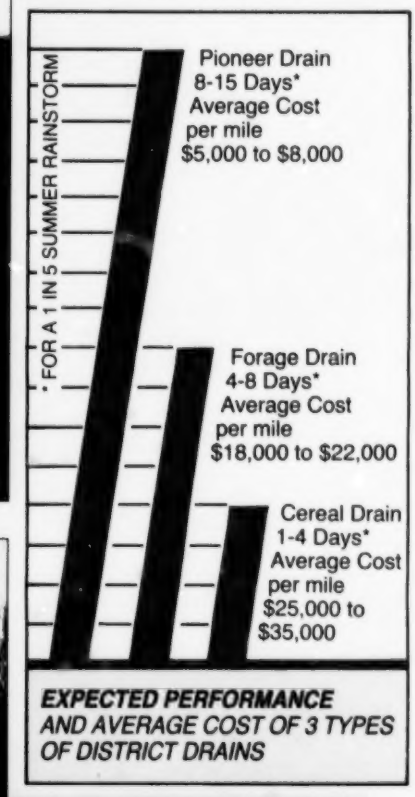
Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
1. Water Management	97,800	101,700	105,700	110,000	114,400	**529,600**
2. Soil Management	83,200	83,700	84,000	76,000	65,000	**391,900**
3. Fisheries	—	1,700	2,500	4,000	6,000	**14,200**
4. Wildlife	—	1,200	2,500	6,000	10,000	**19,700**
5. Recreation/Tourism	—	—	1,600	5,600	10,300	**17,500**
6. Heritage Resources	2,000	3,000	5,200	8,800	10,400	**29,400**
7. Conservation Education	2,400	4,000	6,800	9,000	15,000	**37,200**
Administration	62,400	64,900	67,500	70,200	73,000	**338,000**
Totals (All Programs)	**247,800**	**260,200**	**275,800**	**289,600**	**304,100**	**1,377,500**

Five-Year Spending Allocations (%): All Programs (1989-1993)

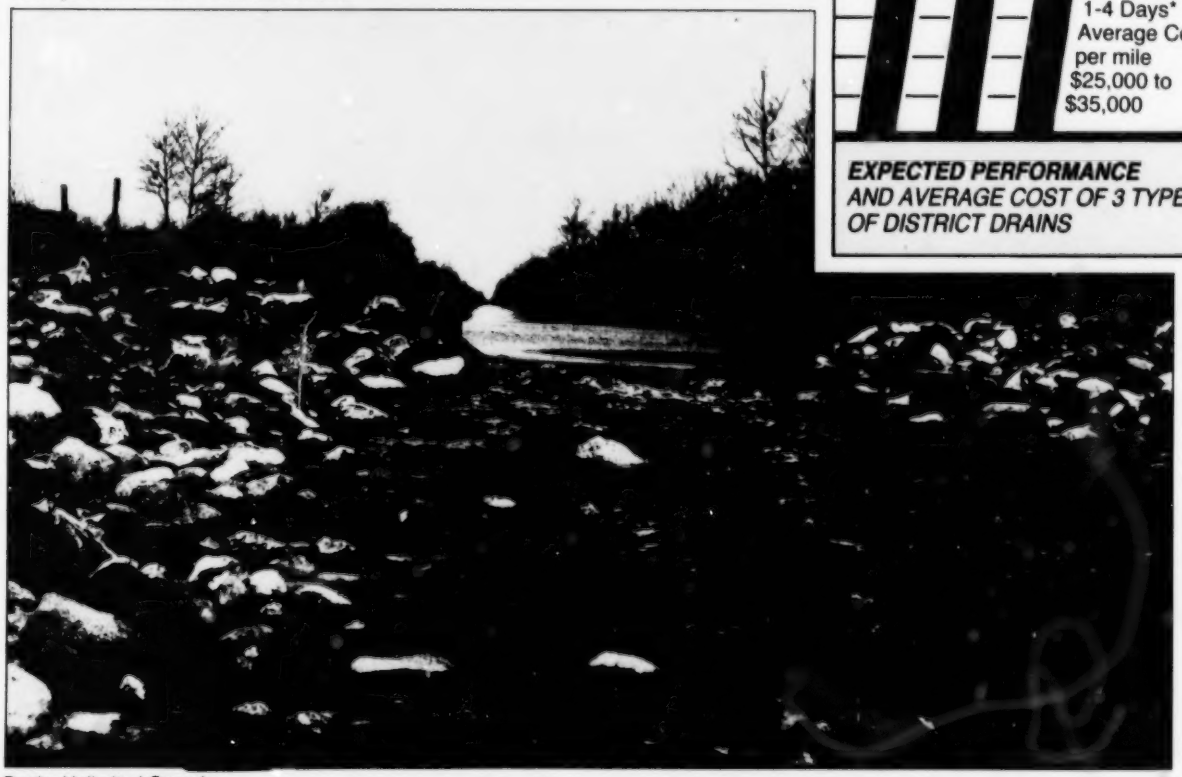
Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
1. Water Management	39%	38%	38%	38%	38%	**38%**
2. Soil Management	34%	32%	30%	26%	21%	**28%**
3. Fisheries	—	1%	1%	1%	2%	**1%**
4. Wildlife	—	1%	1%	2%	3%	**1%**
5. Recreation/Tourism	—	—	1%	2%	3%	**1%**
6. Heritage Resources	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%	**3%**
7. Conservation Education	1%	2%	2%	3%	5%	**3%**
Administration	25%	25%	24%	24%	24%	**25%**
Totals (All Programs)	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**



Horsejaw Lake/Ducks Unlimited Canada



EXPECTED PERFORMANCE
AND AVERAGE COST OF 3 TYPES OF DISTRICT DRAINS



Ducks Unlimited Canada

1 Water Management

Water management has long been viewed as primarily a way to remove excess water quickly from our farmlands. Temporary retention of water can sometimes be more appropriate, especially in the spring months and in dry years. The Board now recognizes that proper water management must serve a number of other purposes at different times and places.

Project Criteria and Construction Priorities

- MASTER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: The Board will establish a Master Water Management Plan to priorize and schedule proposed drainage projects over the next five years. Implementation of the Plan will be concerntrated in the three-year period 1991-93.
- PROJECT CRITERIA: The Board will establish Criteria for Determining Priorities among Drainage Project Proposals. These criteria, to be applied against all potential projects on an annual basis, will include but not be limited to:
  - value of benefits compared to project costs;
  - immediate need to correct unacceptable performance of existing drains;
  - degree of high priority benefits;
  - degree to which affected landowners formally support the project;
  - number of people benefitted;
  - compatibility with water retention objectives;
  - need for specified draining time;
  - soil capability and production value;
  - long-term maintenance costs;
  - long-term existing and historic land use.
- MULTIPLE BENEFITS: The Board will give preference to those projects that serve a combination of public purposes, such as:
  - agricultural drainage;
  - stock watering;
  - water retention;
  - fisheries habitat enhancement;
  - preserving wetlands for waterfowl and other wildlife;
  - recreation use; and
  - safeguarding the quantity and quality of groundwater supplies.
- WATER CONTROL PRIORITIES: The Board will prepare a priority list of possible impoundment and water level regulation projects to control the phased release of water. This will be done in conjunction with the Provincial Government, Ducks Unlimited, PFRA and other involved parties.
- GENERAL EMPHASIS ON PIONEER DRAINS: Given the District's limited funds, the Board will, in most instances, construct pioneer drains. Despite their longer water run-off time (typically 8-15 days) and potentially higher long-term maintenance costs, these drains can be constructed for far less cost than higher standard drains.
- LOW MAINTENANCE: The Board will give highest priority to those projects most likely to result in the lowest long-term maintenance problem requiring a higher-cost, higher-design standard solution.

Maintenance and Repair Program

- TWO-YEAR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROGRAM: The Board will continue to restrict its water management activities to improvement and maintenance of existing drains during the next two years. This activity will emphasize:
  - reconstruction of drains requiring higher standards, particularly near the lakeshore;
  - resloping and reshaping;
  - grassed waterways;
  - silt removal;
  - brushing, cleaning, and vegetation control;
  - side sloping and bank stabilization;
  - repair and replacement of deficient crossings.

Environmental Standards and Enforcement

- GROUNDWATER SAFEGUARDS: The Board will approve only those water management projects or acivities that will not cause either pollution of existing or potential groundwater

supplies or reduction in sustained yield of aquifers.

- SURFACE WATER QUALITY SAFEGUARDS: The Board will attempt, in conjunction with Provincial planning and monitoring staff, to protect present and future uses of surface waters from adverse effects by water management projects in the District. The Board will use the Manitoba Surface Water Quality objectives as guidance in its approval of District projects.
- NO UNSIGHTLY DRAINS: The Board will ensure that any drainage work visible to the general public, particularly pioneer drains, will be constructed and maintained to a high aesthetic standard.
- SETTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND DESIGN STANDARDS: The Board, in conjunction with Provincial departments, will establish and approve project-specific design, construction and maintenance standards for all drains in the District. Standards will be set for such items as:
  - design flow of culverts;
  - routing;
  - side sloping and grading;
  - seeding;
  - vegetation control; and
  - buffer strips

  as relevant and appropriate to management needs, environmental circumstances, and budget constraints. Standards will be compatible with those required by Provincial law.
- STANDARDS COMPLIANCE: The Board, in conjunction with Provincial departments, will monitor projects in process and completed projects to ensure that all environmental and design standards are met. The Board will not authorize any expenditures for drainage work below established standards.
- EVALUATION: The Board will evaluate the performance and benefits-costs of drainage projects on a periodic basis.

Contract Management and Cost-Sharing

- DIRECT CONTROL OVER CONTRACTS: The Board will manage and tender almost all future construction and maintenance contracts of water projects, seeking to achieve the highest quality work at the lowest cost.
- LOCAL PREFERENCE: The Board will give preference to competitive local contractors wherever possible.
- COST-SHARING OF PIONEER DRAINS: The Board will negotiate a cost-sharing arrangement with the L.G.D. for all pioneer drains in the District.
- DISTRICT-LANDOWNER COST-SHARING: The Board will require benefitting landowners to share in the cost of projects through either a monetary contribution or a contribution of labour or equipment.

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Water Management (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
Project Criteria and Construction Priorities	1,200	7,700	66,400	69,100	71,800	**216,200**
Maintenance and Repair Program	88,000	85,000	30,000	31,200	32,500	**266,700**
Environmental Standards and Enforcement	4,000	4,200	4,300	4,500	4,700	**21,700**
Contract Management and Cost-Sharing	4,600	4,800	5,000	5,200	5,400	**25,000**
Totals	97,800	101,700	105,700	110,000	114,400	**529,600**

Soil Management

Changes in the Forage Seed Assistance Program

The Forage Seed Assistance Program has been very popular since its inception in 1979. The program is perceived to be one of the best conservation programs delivered by the District, and the Board will continue it in the years to come.

The program, however, accounts for a large part of the District's annual program expenditures. Indeed, the $85,000 spent in the 1986 and the $70,000 allocated to the program for 1987, represented over 50% of the entire program budget (excluding administration).

To assist in funding other priority programs and to reinforce the program's conservation objectives, the Board will make certain changes over the next five years.

- PROGRAM REVISIONS: The Board will continue the Forage Seed Assistance Program during the next three years with the following revisions:
  - Participating farmers will be required to pay all program administrative costs to the District.
  - The cost of certified seed, above a minimum cost level, will be billed to the beneficiary.
  - Priority will be given to landowners seeding tame grasses and those wishing to use better quality forage on older fields.
  - Forage seed assistance will not be used as an incentive for farmers or ranchers to clear bush on crown or private land.
  - Cost of special seed varieties and mixtures will be billed to the beneficiary.
  - Priority for seed allocations will be given to erosion-prone Class 4 lands.
  - The amount of acreage eligible for forage seed assistance will be reduced to a maximum of 30-40 acres.
  - Follow-up monitoring and evaluation of soil management results will be undertaken to determine the need to continue the program and, if so, under what terms.
- REDUCTION IN YEARS 4 AND 5: The Board will reduce the amount spent on the Forage Seed Assistance Program during the final two years, re-allocating money to other high priority programs.

Improving On-Farm Soils Management

One of the ways to reduce our expenditures on large drainage works is for individual landowners to take greater responsibility for draining and storing water on their own land. This can have benefits for the farmer as well as the District at large.

- INFORMATION PROGRAM: The Board will conduct an intensive campaign of information

and offer workshops on on-farm soil management techniques, e.g. backflood irrigation, PFRA and DU demonstrations, better use of tree plantings, safe use of herbicides and pesticides, and grassed waterways.

- PERMITTING PROCESS: The Board will inform all local farmers of the provisions of the new Water Rights Act and request that all drainage works applications be discussed first with the District Office.
- CONSULTING AND DESIGN SERVICES: The Board will offer consulting and design services for on-farm soil and drainage projects to farmers on a fee basis.
- CONTRACT MAINTENANCE SERVICES: The Board will not expend District funds to construct or maintain on-farm drainage works, except on a fee basis under contract to the landowner.

Encouraging Rotational Grazing

In places, pastureland in the District is being overgrazed. This has a damaging effect on the land, promotes erosion, and adversely affects stock growth.

- DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: While the Board will not spend District funds on rotational grazing projects, we will facilitate and coordinate the activities of Ducks Unlimited and the Agri-Food Program in promoting and funding rotational grazing demonstration projects.
- INFORMATION PROGRAM: The Board will conduct an extensive education campaign to inform ranchers of the benefits of rotational grazing.

Other Soil Conservation Programs

- SOIL PROJECTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS: The Board will facilitate and coordinate the activities of the Agri-Food Program, successor agreements, and other relevant programs in implementing a range of soil conservation projects in the District, e.g.:
  - tree planting;
  - reduced tillage;
  - anti-erosion drill demonstrations;
  - tensile fencing;
  - reservoir management; and
  - livestock grazing demonstrations.
- SEEDING ROAD ALLOWANCES: The Board will seed road allowances as required.
- EROSION CONTROL: The Board will investigate solutions to special soil erosion conditions and implement conservation demonstrations and information campaigns.

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Soil Management (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
Changes in the Forage Seed Assistance Program	72,800	75,700	77,000	70,000	60,000	**355,500**
Improving On-Farm Soils Management	—	—	1,000	2,000	2,000	**5,000**
Encourage Rotational Grazing	5,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	**15,000**
Other Soil Conservation Programs	5,400	4,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	**16,400**
Totals	83,200	83,700	84,000	76,000	65,000	**391,900**

Fisheries

Lake Manitoba is a well-known and productive fishing resource for the District and the Province in general. Of crucial importance to this fishery is protection of the chief spawning areas of Crane River, Lonely Lake, Johnson Lake, Sucker Creek, Reedy Creek, Bluff Creek, and Garrioch Creek.

Protecting and Enhancing Fish Habitat

- AVOIDING ADVERSE PROJECT IMPACTS: The Board will ensure that water management projects, especially the construction and maintenance of drains and crossings, will not endanger fish spawning habitat or restrict the movement of fish.
- STABILIZING CHANNEL FLOWS: The Board will maintain stable downstream channel flows critical for fish spawning by constructing water retention areas upstream of existing and future drainage projects.
- HABITAT IMPROVEMENT: The Board will sponsor and assist in funding spawning habitat improvement projects.
- IMPROVING FISH STOCKS: The Board will request Fisheries Branch and other appropriate bodies to fund construction of additional hatcheries and rearing ponds, to stock creeks and lake locations with fingerlings, and to transport them to appropriate releasing locations.

- COOPERATION WITH DU: The Board will cooperate with Ducks Unlimited in projects designed to enhance fish habitat and increase fish populations.

Supporting Sport Fishing

Sport fishing in the District is a common pastime for many local residents and our visitors. Preservation and enhancement of fish habitat, therefore, is an important conservation concern to the Board and to all District residents.

- FINGERLING STOCKING: The Board will promote the rearing and releasing of fingerlings in area creeks and drains.
- FISH RELEASE PROGRAMS: The Board will promote barbless hook and catch-and-release fishing programs.
- INCREASING LICENSE FEES: The Board will recommend that the Province raise sport and commercial fishing license fees with all extra revenues earmarked for fish habitat enhancement projects.
- PRIORITY TO PICKEREL: The Board will give highest priority to prized sport fish species, i.e. pickerel, in its habitat protection and enhancement programs.

Supporting the Commercial Fishery

Many District residents are engaged in commercial fishing as a livelihood or as a means of supplementing farming income.

- IMPROVING QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF COMMERCIAL FISH STOCKS: The Board will support the Lake Manitoba Commercial Fisherman's Association in its efforts to increase commercial fish stocks, to remove undesirable rough fish, and to preserve and enhance fish rearing habitat.
- PRIORITY TO COMMERCIAL SPECIES: The Board will give high priority to commercially valuable fish species in its habitat protection and enhancement programs.

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Fisheries (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
Protecting and Enhancing Fish Habitat	—	1,700	1,500	2,500	4,000	**9,700**
Supporting Sport Fishing	—	—	500	750	1,000	**2,250**
Supporting the Commercial Fishery	—	—	500	750	1,000	**2,250**
Totals	—	1,700	2,500	4,000	6,000	**14,200**

Wildlife

The District contains some important deer wintering areas. Canada geese are thriving, but duck populations are not increasing. Increasing hunting pressure on these species is and will likely continue to be experienced.

The Board is committed to take new initiatives to conserve our wildlife resources.

Improving Waterfowl Habitat and Bird Populations

- NEW GAME BIRD REFUGES: The Board will request the Province to designate suitable areas as game bird refuges to allow nesting waterfowl populations to increase.
- POTHOLE RETENTION: The Board will strongly discourage landowners from draining potholes particularly suitable for nesting ducks. The Board will encourage retention of adjacent nesting cover free from haying and grazing.
- ISLANDS RESERVED FOR WATERFOWL HABITAT: The Board will request Crown Lands to ensure that the larger Lake Manitoba islands, such as Bjarnason, Redwillow, Hay, and Ducharme, function exclusively as prime waterfowl habitat, and that a study be undertaken as to the best methods of accomplishing this objective, e.g. hay use only, controlled burning of natural vegetation, controlled grazing, etc.
- COOPERATION WITH DU: The Board will continue cooperation with Ducks Unlimited and other organizations on waterfowl habitat improvement projects.

Protecting Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- HUNTING AGREEMENT WITH BANDS: The Board will seek discussions with local Indian bands to obtain agreement to honour hunting restrictions in wildlife management areas, especially the important deer wintering areas at Westlake and North Cayer.
- ENFORCEMENT OF HUNTING REGULATIONS: The Board will make strong representations to Government and police to eliminate nightlighting and illegal overhunting in the District.
- HUNTING CONTROL ON PRIVATE LAND: The Board will encourage and assist all private landowners desiring to participate in establishing posted hunter control areas and/or wildlife refuges.
- WILDLIFE REFUGES: The Board will request the Province to examine the feasibility of establishing wildlife refuges, rather than winter-only management areas, in the District.

4. Wildlife (cont'd)

- CLEARING RESTRICTIONS: The Board will request the L.G.D. and Crown Lands to impose tighter clearing restrictions on marginal lands and important game habitats.
- BUFFER REQUIREMENTS: The Board will request Crown Lands to enforce the required 300 foot vegetation buffer along all road allowances.
- REVISIONS TO TRAPPING REGULATIONS: The Board will request the Provincial Government to eliminate the fall muskrat trapping season, shorten the spring season, and police its regulations more effectively in the District.
- GREATER PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY: The Board will request relevant Provincial departments and external organizations to extend and improve their wildlife enhancement programs in the District.

Strictly Regulating Fires

- ANTI-BURNING PROMOTION: The Board will actively discourage landowners from uncontrolled and unsupervised burning of stubble and slash.
- LOCAL PERMIT ENFORCEMENT: The Board and L.G.D. will study the practicality of returning to a permit system for controlled burning on both private and public property, but only if such a system can be effectively enforced.
- ENFORCEMENT OF PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS: The Board will request Manitoba Natural Resources and the RCMP to more stringently enforce all burning regulations and fine all violators.

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Wildlife (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
Improving Waterfowl Habitat/Populations	—	—	1,000	2,500	4,300	**7,800**
Protecting Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	—	1,000	1,000	2,500	4,300	**8,800**
Strictly Regulating Fires	—	200	500	1,000	1,400	**3,100**
Totals	—	1,200	2,500	6,000	10,000	**19,700**

Recreation & Tourism

Our area possesses many natural, recreational and cultural resources attractive to visitors, especially along the Lake Manitoba shoreline. The Board and our residents recognize, however, that we are not sufficiently committed to care for and protect our important land and water assets or the facilities developed on them.

The Board believes that increased tourism and improved recreational facilities would be of significant benefit to the District. Furthermore, it is convinced that the District's tourism opportunities are rooted in conservation of its natural and cultural resources. The Board's objectives in this area appear to be supported by District residents.

5. Recreation & Tourism (cont'd)

Improved Recreational Facilities

- ANTI-VANDALISM CAMPAIGN: The Board will work with the L.G.D. in an effort to reduce vandalism and improper use of District recreation facilities.

- PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: The Board will request the Provincial Parks Branch to do a feasibility study and implementation strategy for development of new recreational facilities, especially beaches, boat launches, wayside parks, and day use picnic areas.

- EXPANDING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES: The Board will support local recreation groups and co-sponsor development of such recreational activities as:
  - boating and skiing along specified creeks and drains;
  - barbless, catch-and-release fishing derbies;
  - wildlife photo "safaris".

Improved Tourism Services

- IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION: The Board will request the L.G.D. and Provincial Highways to:
  - improve designated roads, such as beach roads and lakeshore drives;
  - improve highway signage to direct travellers to local services.

- TOURISM TRAINING PROGRAM: The Board will work with, and request funding from, Manitoba Business Development and Tourism, regional tourist associations, the L.G.D., and local tourist operators to improve the standard of service and management in area hospitality operations.

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Recreation & Tourism (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
Improved Recreation Facilities	—	—	1,600	4,000	7,000	**12,600**
Improved Tourism Services	—	—	—	1,600	3,300	**4,900**
Totals	—	—	1,600	5,600	10,300	**17,500**

Heritage Resources

The Board is committed to heritage conservation, education and site interpretation. The Alec Robertson collection in Alonsa is a fine beginning in this field. Preservation and improvement of the old Hudsons Bay trading post complex near Kinosota on Lake Manitoba is a high priority for future Board action.

Improving the Alonsa Museum

- MUSEUM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: The Board will work with the L.G.D., the Province, and other appropriate organizations, to improve the Alonsa Museum, by:
  - obtaining clear title to the property from the School Division;
  - adding to and maintaining the building;
  - expanding and upgrading the collection;
  - promoting its use and programs;
  - inviting residents to donate cultural and historic artifacts.

Preserving Manitoba House Settlement

- HERITAGE SITE DEVELOPMENT: The Board will request Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, and other appropriate organizations, to assist in acquiring, restoring, and interpreting the Manitoba House Settlement at Kinosota.

Heritage Programming

- PUBLIC PROGRAMS: The Board will sponsor additional programs and events to give residents and visitors a deeper appreciation of the rich cultural history of the area.
- FUTURE PROJECTS: The Board will take additional initiatives as needed, with the assistance of the Manitoba Government, to preserve other significant heritage resources in the area, such a "thunderbird nests", homesteads, post offices, buildings, and "heritage landscapes".

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Heritage Resources (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
Improving the Alonsa Museum	1,000	1,000	3,000	4,000	4,400	**13,400**
Preserving Manitoba House Settlement	1,000	1,600	1,700	3,500	4,000	**11,800**
Heritage Programming	—	400	500	1,300	2,000	**4,200**
Totals	2,000	3,000	5,200	8,800	10,400	**29,400**

7 Conservation Education

The Board is committed to a major thrust in improving the understanding and involvement of residents in District conservation. It is particularly committed to the development of greater understanding of, and support for, resource conservation among city-dwellers.

Widespread public support appears to exist within the District for the following programs:

School Programs

- LOCAL CONSERVATION CURRICULUM: The Board will cooperate with teachers, administrators, and school board members to expand and improve curriculum content on conservation issues.
- EDUCATION PROGRAMS: The Board will offer more in-school and field-trip programs on conservation matters for area students and their families.
- PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT: The Board will work with other organizations in requesting the Department of Education to develop increased and improved conservation content and materials in schools, especially for use in urban school divisions.

Portia Interpretative Centre

- TRAIL AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: The Board will work with Ducks Unlimited to establish a trail walk system and wetland conservation program at the Portia Complex.
- CONSERVATION PARK DEVELOPMENT: The Board and L.G.D. will investigate the feasibility of developing a year-round "conservation park" as both a local education centre and tourist attraction.

People-to-People Programs

- EXCHANGE PROGRAM: The Board will sponsor a summer exchange program between local students and those from Manitoba cities, other conservation districts, and other provinces.
- CONSERVATION FARM VACATIONS FOR CITY FOLK: The Board will encourage conservation-oriented families in the District to offer farm and/or ranch vacations to urban families.

Tours

- DISTRICT PROJECT TOURS: The Board will organize tours of District conservation projects, such as the Portia Project, the Reykjavik Game Bird Refuge, Kinosota heritage buildings, and model farms and ranches.
- FIELD TRIPS: The Board will sponsor out-in-the-field programs on conservation issues and projects for area residents and visitors.

Communications

- INFORMATION PROGRAM: The Board will publicize its programs more widely and frequently in the District through local newspapers, TV, radio, and its own newsletters.

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Conservation Education (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
School Programs	500	500	700	800	1,000	**3,500**
Portia Interpretative Centre	—	1,000	3,000	4,500	9,000	**17,500**
People-to-People Programs	500	800	1,000	1,200	1,800	**5,300**
Tours	500	700	900	1,100	1,500	**4,700**
Communications	900	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,700	**6,200**
Totals	2,400	4,000	6,800	9,000	15,000	**37,200**

Administration

None of the Board's programs can be developed or implemented without capable and efficient staff and provision for needed expenses.

The functions and services provided by our administration include:

- preparing annual budgets and controlling costs;
- preparing funding proposals to external sources and negotiating agreements;
- administering all District programs;
- field investigations and inspections of District projects;
- coordinating activities of conservation and project development organizations active in the District;
- administering tenders and negotiating all contracts;
- communicating with District residents, interest groups, and other participants.

The Board's administrative budget will be allocated as follows:

Office Operating Expenses

- ANNUAL EXPENSES: The Board will spend approximately $22,000 to $26,000 per year on expenses, including:
  - — office rental from L.G.D.;
  - — office equipment;
  - — utilities;
  - — supplies;
  - — board remuneration;
  - — staff travel and other expenses;
  - — vehicles;
  - — public relations; and
  - — other miscellaneous expenses.

Annual increases are provided to keep pace with rising costs, but do not include any new or additional expense items.

Staff

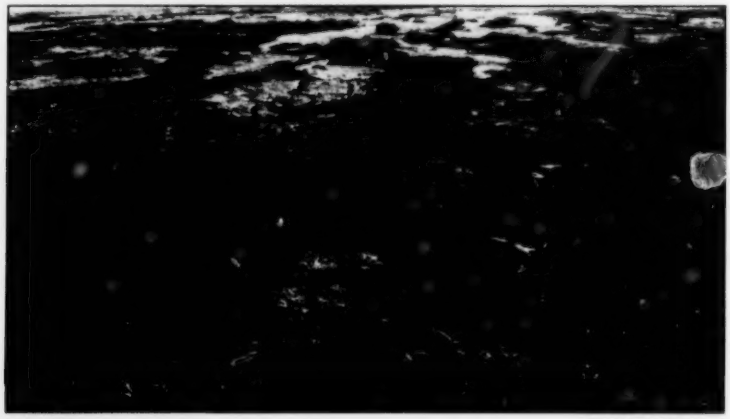
- DISTRICT MANAGER AND BOARD SECRETARY: The Board over the next five years will spend between $41,000 and $48,000 per year on salaries and benefits for two staff members.

Labour

- LABOUR CREW AND OTHER: The Board will include specific project labour costs within program allocations.

Five-Year Spending Estimates: Administration (1989-1993)

Program	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total
Office Operating Expenses	21,800	22,700	23,600	24,600	25,500	**118,200**
Staff	40,600	42,200	43,900	45,600	47,500	**219,800**
Totals	62,400	64,900	67,500	70,200	73,000	**338,000**



Lake Mary — Ducks Unlimited

Expenditures and Revenues - Financing our Conservation

THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN: 1978-88

The accompanying chart illustrates what it has cost the District to run our programs since 1979, our first full year of operation. From 1979 to 1988 (projected), the Board will have spent over $1.8 million on conservation within the District. Annual spending varied considerably during this period, from a high of $292,000 in 1982 to a recent low of $146,000 in 1984.

Over this 12-year period, over 87% of all District expenditures have been made to finance water management projects (54%) and soil conservation programs (33%). Virtually all remaining funds were expended on administration of the District.

For the five-year period 1983-1988, District expenditures will have totalled over $950,000. Over $760,000 (80% of total expenditures) was allocated to water and soil management projects. Most expenditures in recent years have been for drain and crossing maintenance. Less than 1% was spent on conservation education. The remaining 19%, or $186,000, was used to administer the District's operation.

THE REVENUE PATTERN: 1978-88

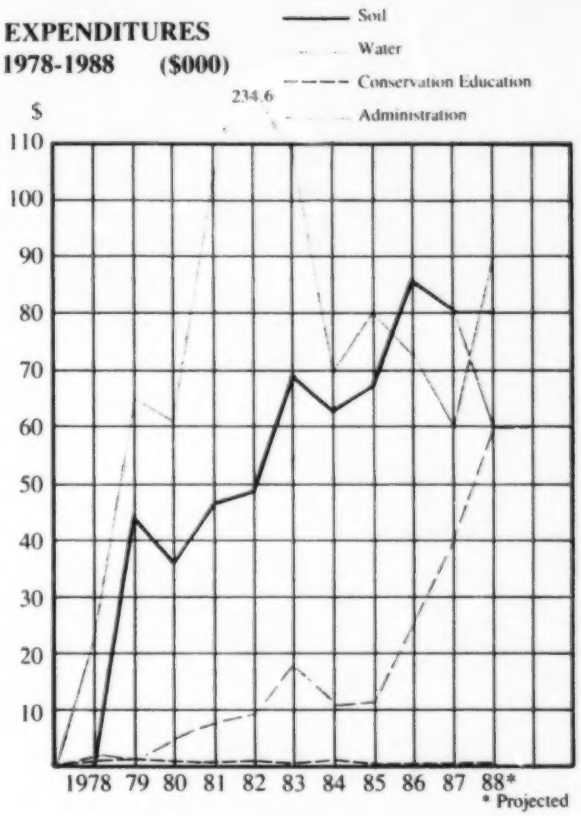
The accompanying chart illustrates how the District has financed its programs since 1979.

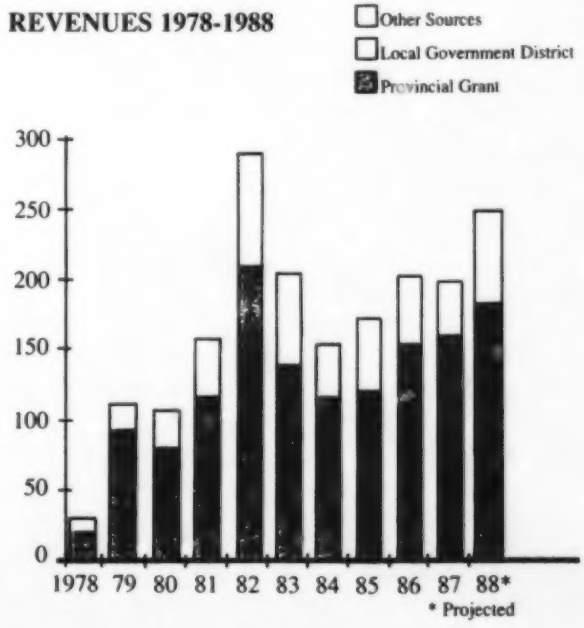
The Provincial Government grant has generally accounted for between 75-80% of District revenues over this 12-year period. The grant reached its highest level in 1982 ($212,000).

Grants from the L.G.D. have constituted between 10-20% of annual revenues. The L.G.D. currently contributes over $30,000 to the District.

The District has also received revenue from non-government sources, primarily payments from farmers participating in the Forage Seed Assistance Program.

Beyond these funding sources for the core program budget, substantial special project funds have been expended by Ducks Unlimited within the District.





EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES: 1989-93

Projections for District expenditures during the next five years (1989-93) are summarized on the graph below.

These planned expenditures are based on the following revenue assumptions:

- that revenues will increase at about 5% per year, i.e. the long-term rate of inflation plus minimal real growth;
- that revenue from the L.G.D. will not rise above the current maximum allowed by statute, i.e. a 10 mil levy, or $10 per $1000 of land assessment;
- that the L.G.D. will continue to provide a special annual grant to the District to supplement the 10 mil levy;
- that revenue from the Province will be maintained at the historic level of $3 for every $1 raised through the local levy (the 75/25 cost-sharing formula) for District programs, plus a special appropriation;
- that new revenues will be raised from external sources to expand program activity, for both existing obligations and new initiatives.

Given the above assumptions and limitations with respect to revenues, a careful re-allocation of budgets among program categories will be necessary to fund existing or additional activities.

REVENUE SOURCES

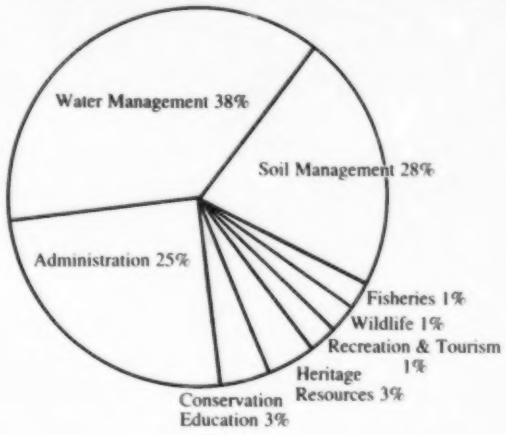
The Board has only three sources of money to support its programs and projects. Taking the District's 1987 budget of $200,450 as an example, funds have come from the Provincial Government (79%), the L.G.D. (11%), and other non-government sources (10%).

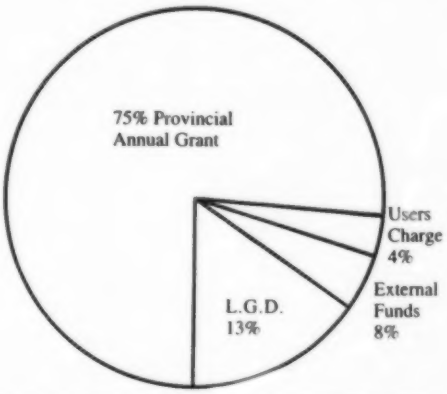
To maintain the current real dollar level of program expenditures, and to increase and improve programs in the years to come, the Board must raise more money from all sources.

To raise this money, especially from non-tax sources, the Board needs the cooperation and support of local residents. With the District's people and our full-time manager and staff working with us, we intend to take more effective initiatives in raising the money that is needed.

For each of the three sources of revenue, the Board will attempt to improve the District's funding base as follows:

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 1989-1993





FIVE YEAR REVENUE ESTIMATES 1989-1993

1. Provincial Government Grants

We will continue to press the Provincial Government for increased and higher ratio grants.

- INCREASED PROVINCIAL GRANT: The Board will actively seek Provincial agreement that the minimum government share will remain at 75% of our total budget over the next five years, and that Provincial funding of cost-shared programs will provide for a modest level of real growth, i.e. above the rate of inflation.

- MORE SUPPORT FOR POORER DISTRICTS: The Board will request the Conservation Districts Authority to establish a new "equalization" formula for greater equitability in core funding between high assessment and low assessment districts. In Alonsa's case, as a District with a relatively small assessment base now being taxed at the maximum allowable level, the Board has extremely limited ability to increase and improve its activities without a new Provincial funding basis.
- INCENTIVE FOR RAISING NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDS: The Board will attempt to obtain Provincial agreement that, as the District is able to increase revenues from non-government sources, i.e. ratepayers, program users and beneficiaries, or external organizations, the Province will not take such fund-raising success as an opportunity to reduce its own governmental share. Rather, the Province must consider its share as a guaranteed revenue base, thereby providing an incentive for the District to spend Board and administrative time in raising additional operating funds.
- PROVINCIAL MATCHING: The Board will request the Province to match any increased grants by the L.G.D. or external sources on an equal or other negotiated basis.

2. Local Ratepayers and Users

Today, the Board receives the yield from a 10 mil levy on local ratepayers imposed by the L.G.D. for District purposes. The L.G.D. is prohibited by law from raising this levy beyond the 10 mil level, except for special project appropriations on a one-year basis.

- INCREASED L.G.D. GRANT: The Board will request the L.G.D. to increase its special annual grant to support District programs.
- L.G.D. SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING: The Board will request the L.G.D. to provide funding for special projects, as required in its annual budgets, to supplement existing District resources.
- USER CHARGES: The Board will investigate and implement feasible ways of implementing new or increased user charges for selected programs.
- AD HOC FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES: The Board will study and implement all other practical methods of raising funds locally, e.g. raffles, dinners, special events, etc.
- LOCAL VOLUNTEER CORPS: The Board will initiate the establishment, recruitment, and organization of a corps of local volunteers to provide labour, property, equipment, and expertise on a range of construction and maintenance projects, fund-raising activities, and education programs.

3. External Sources

Third and finally, the Board will attempt to raise money from non-government sources outside the District.

- DUCKS UNLIMITED: The Board will continue to cooperate and support Ducks Unlimited in constructing and maintaining additional small and large multi-purpose conservation projects in the District. The Board will also request DU to provide financial and operating support for selected activities related to their existing projects, such as fisheries enhancement and conservation education at Lonely Lake and Portia.
- MANITOBA LOTTERIES FOUNDATION: The Board will make representations to the Foundation for a share in Provincial gaming funds revenues.
- TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS: The Board will establish an "Alonsa Conservation Fund", registered as a non-profit charitable organization and administered by the Board, that can receive tax-deductible donations to support general District operations. Local and external individuals, families, and estates would then be able to make tax-deductible contributions and/or bequests of money, property, or goods and services to such an endowment set up to serve area conservation purposes.
- WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA: The Board will initiate funding proposals to this and other national funding bodies for specified projects within their mandates.
- ADDITIONAL SOURCES: The Board will approach other committed conservation-minded foundations, corporations, and individual philanthropists for project-specific and operating support.

Five-Year Revenue Estimates ($ + %): All Programs (1989-1993)

Funding Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total	%
1. Province (Annual Grant)	193,300	203,000	213,100	223,800	235,000	**1,068,200**	**78**
2. L.G.D. (Levy and Special Grant)	33,150	34,480	35,860	37,290	38,780	**179,560**	**13**
3. User Charges	9,000	9,500	10,000	11,000	12,000	**51,500**	**4**
4. External Funds	12,350	13,220	16,840	17,510	18,320	**78,240**	**5**
Total Core Budget	**247,800**	**260,200**	**275,800**	**289,600**	**304,100**	**1,377,500**	**100**

SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES (targetted programs)

- **Ducks Unlimited** (water management, fisheries, wildlife, conservation education)
- **Wildlife Habitat Canada** (wildlife)
- **Agri-Food Agreement** (soil & water management)
- **PFRA** (soil management)
- **Manitoba Agriculture** (soil management)
- **National Soil Conservation Program**
- **Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation** (wildlife habitat)
- **Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows** (outdoors, wildlife, education, habitat)
- **Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Recreation** (heritage resources, conservation education)
- **Manitoba Business Development and Tourism** (tourism)
- **Manitoba Education** (conservation education)
- **Manitoba Natural Resources** (fisheries, wildlife)
- **The Nature Conservancy of Canada**
- **Environment Canada** (Land Rehabilitation, cleanups, education)

Annual Targets for Special Project Funding

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	TOTAL
Dollars	50,000	75,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	425,000
Increase to Core Budget	+20%	+29%	+36%	+35%	+33%	+31%

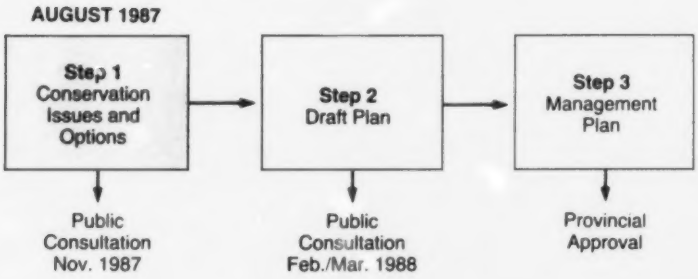
Plan Purposes

In this Alonsa Conservation District Management Plan, the Board has established its long-range vision and specific five-year commitments for improved management of our natural and man-made resources and for better allocation of our financial resources.

As we see them, the main purposes of the Plan are:

- To inform the District's residents about the Board's policies, vision, and future intentions;
- To obtain commitments from the residents, the L.G.D., and the Government to the Board's conservation objectives and spending priorities;
- To provide the current and future Board and staff with an annual program and budget plan as a guide for our specific project decisions;
- To provide a basis for funding requests from governmental and non-governmental sources; and
- To provide a framework within which new and practical conservation approaches, policies and practices can be implemented.

The Planning Process



This Management Plan is the product of a three-step process.

Step 1: Conservation Issues and Options (August 1987). This document, distributed to all residents of the District, set out a range of resource management issues and options for consideration. A second brochure was distributed in October 1987, inviting all residents to three Community Meetings held in Eddystone, Amaranth and Alonsa to discuss the issues and options.

Step 2: Draft Management Plan. The Draft Plan (this document) is the second step in the process. After time for review and reflection, the Board will conduct another round of consultations to receive public feedback in February and March, 1988.

Step 3: Management Plan. After consideration of the Draft, we will prepare the Final Management Plan.